

No. 8.

Captain NARES to SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

H.M.S. "Alert," Upernivik,

22nd July 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that H.M. ships "Alert" and "Discovery" arrived here this morning.

2. Leaving Rittenbank at 6 a.m. on the 17th instant we experienced light southerly winds and calms in the Waigat Strait. The "Valorous" was seen at anchor off the Rittenbank Coal Mine, but a thick fog prevented my communicating her.

3. I arrived at Proven on the eve of the 19th, and having entered hands as Esquimaux dog driver and interpreter for the "Discovery," I left for this port yesterday evening.

4. I have still sufficient coal on the upper deck of the "Alert" to enable the two ships to reach the edge of the ice in Melville Bay without having touched their regular supply.

5. The winter here has been a very mild one, but the spring is backward. By all accounts the season is on the whole very favourable for us. The whaling ships passed this port early in June, and not having since been seen must have made a successful passage through Melville Bay.

6. In consequence of the energetic help of Mr. Smith, Inspector N. Greenland, I have been successful in obtaining 60 dogs, two-thirds of which are full grown powerful animals.

7. All on board are in good health and spirits, and we look forward to a quick passage to Cape York, the barometer having risen during the last three days with a S.W. wind to an unusual height, and now going down slowly with a northerly one. I shall leave this evening at 6 o'clock.

I am, &c.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
Whitehall, London.

(Signed) G. S. NARES, Captain.

No. 9.

This record was found by Lieutenant Lillingston, R.N., of the "Pandora," in a cairn on the S.E. island of the Carey Islands.

Arctic Expedition, H.M. "Alert," at Carey Islands,

3 a.m., July 27th, 1875.

"ALERT" and "Discovery" arrived here at midnight and will leave at 6 a.m. for Smith Sound after depositing a depot of provisions and a boat.

We left Upernivik on the evening of the 22nd instant and Brown Islands on the evening of the 23rd. Passing through the Middle Ice during a calm without a check, we arrived at Cape York on the 25th instant.

The season is a very open one, and we have every prospect of attaining a high latitude.

All are well on board each ship.

(Signed) G. S. NARES,
Captain R.N. in command of Expedition.

No. 10.

Dr. THOMAS COLAN, of the "ALERT," to the MEDICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL of the NAVY.

H.M.S. "Alert," off Carey Islands,

July 26th, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that at the present date the state of health of all on board the Arctic ships is as excellent and satisfactory as when I last wrote from Upernivik on the 22nd instant.

We passed through the "Middle Pack" most successfully in 34 hours, and all in the expedition are in high spirits on this account.

The absence of floe ice in this the north water augurs favourably for a successful passage to the northward.